

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 495

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Elizabeth Joanne Shupe on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Joanne Shupe will celebrate her eightieth birthday on February 11, 2012, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shupe was born in Russell County, Virginia, on February 11, 1932, to William Emory "Buck" and Fanny Woodrow "Wood" Easterly Cross; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in the hills of southwest Virginia she, like many from her remarkable generation, experienced the extremes of the century, from using outdoor restrooms and oil lamps for light to tailoring her own clothing, farming her own food, and using horses and mules for transportation prior to the creation of the automobile; and

WHEREAS, in her adolescence, Ms. Shupe was known for farming, playing basketball in high school, cooking, sewing her own clothing, and walking several miles back and forth to school and church; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1950s, Elizabeth was offered a contract with a modeling agency in New York, but she declined, turning down a potentially life-changing experience; and

WHEREAS, during the early years of adulthood, she moved to Kingsport, Tennessee, during which time she had a short-lived marriage that produced three children, Jeannie Troemmler, Steve Warner, and Michael Warner; and

WHEREAS, nearly thirty years later, Ms. Shupe married for a second time and gave birth to her fourth child, Jantry Shupe, but she was widowed and began the next chapter of her life as a single parent; and

WHEREAS, while one of her children was in middle school, Elizabeth pursued her education to become a nurse, graduating at the top of her class and never accepting welfare, food stamps, or pity for raising her children on her own; and

WHEREAS, she displayed incredible tenacity to excel in the most trying of times, working three jobs in her mid-fifties as a retail clerk at Family Dollar, a cook at First Broad Street United Methodist Church, and a student assistant at Hillside Manor Nursing Home; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shupe served in the health care profession with acumen and alacrity until her retirement at the age of seventy-five; and

WHEREAS, since her retirement, she has traveled from Tampa, Florida, to New Orleans, Louisiana, and many places in between; and

WHEREAS, some of the highlights from Elizabeth's travels include having met and taken pictures with a number of celebrities, including Gavin DeGraw, Kimberly Locke, Miss Virginia, Paula Dean's son, Bobbie Dean, and Johnny Cash's niece, Rita Forrester; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shupe has also been presented with a personalized photo from Dolly Parton, and Dolly treated Elizabeth, her two sisters, and her son, Jantry, as guests of honor at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth remains active in her community, always displaying the greatest probity and integrity in each of her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, she takes part in the Kingsport Widowed Person's Organization, which she was instrumental in starting as a charter member, and she exercises her talent for ceramic painting by serving monthly as a volunteer teacher at an assisted living facility; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shupe is fond of socializing with her church family, friends, family, and members of her Red Hat Society chapter; having jewelry parties; working crosswords; cooking; reading the Bible; and, most importantly, maintaining a sincere faith, a positive attitude, and a fantastic sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, as Elizabeth celebrates eight decades of living life to its fullest, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Elizabeth Joanne Shupe on the celebration of her eightieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.